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**Newspaper Editor Richard E. Davis of Trenton, Tennessee, In
the JFK Years, 1961-1963
Conclusion**

By Dr. Marvin L. Downing

In mid-1961 Trenton started to correct a pet peeve of editor Davis—the lack of water meters. He knew of no other town of comparable size that had no water meters. He called the city's flat user fee "wasteful."¹¹⁵ Unexpectedly an electric meter malfunctioned, according to Davis' reportage. A city employee reading electric meters called on the city engineer to help him check the meter's indicator. Three missing cog-teeth caused an embarrassingly high reading at the city engineer's home,¹¹⁶ all duly reported in the Trenton *Herald*.

If water meter and electric meter reading had not been enough, city parking meters came under Davis' journalistic fire. Locals had difficulty parking on the Court Square and adjacent street. They were over-parking when their allotted time expired. If a regular policeman could not enforce regulations, Davis wrote, the city should hire a meter maid. The situation was patently unfair to residents who consistently fed the machines. Double-parking caused headaches for city and citizens. The worst case was a violator blocking a properly parked car whose meter had not expired.¹¹⁷ Within two weeks the editor cautioned that the city would strictly enforce parking regulations.¹¹⁸

On matters of more gravity, perhaps Davis devoted more ink to integration than to any other issue during the Kennedy years. He disliked the social implications of racial integration as well as the federal courts mandating civil rights legislation. Not surprisingly he supported U.S. Senator Herman Talmadge of Georgia, who tried to halt the U.S. courts' enforcement of Southern school integration. The need to curb federal

judicial power was a frequently recurring theme in Davis' newspaper.¹¹⁹ Congress should make laws; the courts should merely interpret the law. According to his interpretation, Congress had not acted under the Fourteenth Amendment, which as he read the amendment, had admitted the last eighteen states with "exclusive control of their schools and colleges."¹²⁰

Davis was certainly unhappy when the Methodist bishop of Nashville publicly favored "inclusive church integration." The journalist supported the original agreement uniting the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to abide by the then "existing system of race relations." He believed anyone truly wanting integration should join the black Christian Methodist Episcopal Church. Such a step would test whether a person sincerely wanted integration or was merely mouthing the idea.¹²¹

Meantime, civil rights activists strove to integrate interstate travel in the South. They were organized agitators, but the spring of 1961 was "No Time to Encourage Trouble Makers," as he titled his editorial.¹²² He believed the recent opposition to integration of blacks and whites in Alabama was not as stiff as some outside newsmen had written. At the same time blacks did not suspend their agitating, contrary to U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy's request that they stop demonstrating. Editor Davis regarded freedom riders in Tennessee as "mighty poor advertising" for the state, where some of the forays into the Deep South had originated. Accordingly he supported the plan of Tennessee government officials to expel three black Nashville student organizers.¹²³

A week later he again editorialized against "Freedom Riders" and bus integration. He accused the U.S. government of supporting individuals who forced on others "their ideas of the proper way to do things." Davis protested "communist-led bus riders" could lead to anarchy. Further, he

charged court decisions violated the Tenth Amendment and held their conclusions were not the law of the land until congressional legislation legitimized them.¹²⁴

In Davis' opinion, the U.S. Constitution did not cover education; thus, school integration was a state, not a federal issue. On the contrary, the U.S. courts said Louisiana's literacy test for voting meant the schools must exist to produce literate citizens.¹²⁵ Consequently, as he said, he disliked the judiciary's overstepping its authority and implementing the racial ideas of noted Swedish sociologist Gunnar Myrdahl. Further, the highest court should "respect the decision of its predecessors."¹²⁶ Tennessee's being forced to integrate more and more schools constituted "a dangerous trend in American government," the editor maintained. Forced integration created the potential for "Government by Court and Executive Order" if the President ordered public housing integrated.¹²⁷ Predictably this former Mississippi editor opposed integration of the University of Mississippi.¹²⁸

Davis certainly favored letting non-Southerners know how the natives felt. He called attention to several speeches in the *Congressional Record* concerning the Southern stance against integration as a gradual erosion of states' rights. Besides, Davis charged a recent Gallup poll showing most Southerners favored JFK's sending the military to Ole Miss was erroneous. He definitely had not seen such pollsters in Dixie.¹²⁹

Professing non-violent change, at times Davis deplored both agitators and anti-integrationists. He roundly criticized twenty black students for blocking a restaurant door in Nashville. Though a court would likely exonerate them, Davis asserted, "No people with any personal pride would do such things, but they are upheld by some."¹³⁰ Nor could he uphold the murder in Alabama of a New Yorker promoting integration. Such

situations brought out hotheads who often got "high" from mob action, alcohol or other drugs.¹³¹ The notable Birmingham violence of May 1963 stemmed from black ministers agitating instead of leading well.¹³² Such activists comprised a "crowd of outlaws" who would "completely dominate the situation and rule the whites if allowed," Davis claimed.¹³³

By mid-June 1963 in "Prelude to Violence," Davis' outlook changed somewhat. He began seeing violence as a natural result of agitation. It was almost impossible for Southern whites to remain non-violent if black protesters forced themselves on others or the possessions of others. The U.S. government's doing the bidding of the NAACP had subverted local officials, the editor thought.¹³⁴ Unfortunately his predictions seemed fulfilled in September 1963 when four pre-adolescent black girls died in Birmingham from a dynamite blast set off during Sunday School.¹³⁵ Integrationists and their opponents everywhere should exercise restraint, Davis counseled.¹³⁶

Black civil rights remained a hot topic after the assassination of President Kennedy. Appropriate memorials to the fallen chief aside, Davis would "Keep Sentiment Sane," a response that did not include doubtful legislation such as the civil rights bill. Such dubious statutes would cost most Americans more liberties than would be gained. Davis hoped his Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett of Union City would remain opposed to such dangerous proposals.¹³⁷

Irrespective of integration, Davis criticized big government. He acknowledged the federal government sought to protect Americans through anti-trust suits from excessive costs of drugs, cars, sports racketeering, and even farm implements. Instead, in his opinion, Americans required protection from more high government costs and "burdensome and

unreasonable taxes.” Those levies and excessive labor costs certainly diminished the U.S. “industrial advantage over other countries.”¹³⁸

Davis argued carelessness with federal handouts to persons on relief added to the already heavy tax load. Indeed, some on welfare drove nice cars, dressed well, and ate good food, he wrote. Though Italy could not afford to distribute free grain, the U.S. was headed in that direction with its relief system.¹³⁹ In addition, the U.S. government was insisting on more power. While early national leaders had worked for the good of the country within a federal framework, Davis noted more and more individuals and organizations were insisting on “me power.” The President insisted on his program, Congress casually gave foreign aid and federal courts widened their judicial powers under the interstate commerce clause. All were usurping the rights of individual states of the Union.¹⁴⁰

Davis disagreed with his U.S. Congressman after his representative’s Rotary Club speech. Representative Everett, a Democrat, saw more grounds for federal aid to education after he experienced difficulty in finding military academy appointees capable of passing the entrance test. Davis’ congressman claimed such U.S. aid to education had no strings attached. On the contrary, Davis felt local control of education should stress fundamentals and set their own standards. In his eyes the practically bankrupt U.S. government was in no condition to extend more federal aid.¹⁴¹ The only government assistance should be directed to the teaching of arithmetic to national officialdom.¹⁴²

Nor did Davis see improvements in the highest echelons of government. President Kennedy’s State of the Union speech of 1962 placed the new president at the head of the country’s heaviest spenders, regardless of their political party affiliation. These guardians of the country’s wealth could best serve the nation, in Davis’ opinion, by making the U.S. fiscally

and militarily "sound and safe." Otherwise, he declared "ruin for the nation is in the offing."¹⁴³ More specifically, he was exasperated by "complicated and confusing Federal forms" the unemployed had to fill out.¹⁴⁴

Predictably Davis stood against the introduction of Medicare. He disliked such prospects because the Social Security Act was bringing heavier burdens on employees and employers each year.¹⁴⁵ In addition, federal codes already contained provisions for care of the needy elderly. Further government involvement would drive medical costs up quickly. Moreover, the financially strapped U.S. government needed Congress to be statesmen in opposing the "gimmie crowd."¹⁴⁶

At every government level Davis saw "More and More Taxes," as he headlined his editorial. All officials seemingly were spenders. Trenton had a new city hall and sewage facilities at the same time the county was underwriting higher pay for teachers: The state was funding "The Governor's Program." Davis "hope[d] for saner officials at some future date."¹⁴⁷

Davis had little enthusiasm for the space program either. Basically he considered it both unnecessary and unduly expensive. Nor should the University of Tennessee operate the Tullahoma space program facility. The state, he felt, had been a paragon of prudent spending until Governor Frank Clement's years.¹⁴⁸ The space race was foolish for both the strapped Russian economy and that of this nation. The U.S. should stop exploration except for defense.¹⁵⁰

While the editor wanted fundamental changes in national government¹⁵¹ and its leadership in 1962,¹⁵² he had not expected the assassination of President Kennedy. Davis deplored the "tragic death" but observed the media coverage was unprecedented in its detailed coverage.¹⁵³

A thorough investigation was warranted; yet the slain president's successor was quite an able one because of his wealth of Congressional experience and familiarity with foreign affairs.¹⁵⁴

In the Kennedy years foreign relations had been tense with Russia and China, especially over Cuba, Berlin and atomic testing. When President Eisenhower severed diplomatic relations with Castro after a year of his insults and appropriation of American property, Davis' editorial was headlined "Cuban Situation Deplorable."¹⁵⁵ He conjectured that Washington had overthrown conspiratorial plans of the USSR and Cuba, but such agents could also be active in the U.S.¹⁵⁵ Davis hoped for improved Soviet-American relations after Russia returned two U.S. pilots downed over the Barents Sea. The U.S. should be cordial but ever alert to Russian sabotage and certainly "trust in God and keep our powder dry."¹⁵⁶

Nonetheless, Americans were shocked that a U.S.-backed invasion of the island failed. Davis expected other attempts to counter Soviet efforts abroad. Yet it bothered him that the U.S. was "constantly fighting some other people's battles...to preserve our own safety and welfare here at home." Perhaps prophetic of the Cuban missile crisis, Davis believed the U.S. could not let Russia take over the island and set up rocket bases directed at our homeland."¹⁵⁷

In the spring of 1961 Davis considered our "Foreign Entanglements Vexing" with Laos, Russia, China and Castro's Cuba.¹⁵⁸ He wondered whether Khrushchev had orchestrated troublesome situations to divert our attention. He asked how long the U.S., Russia and China could endure such a Cold War. American frustration with its international role existed, he wrote, because, "the successes are too few and the failures are too many. We hope for some relief soon."¹⁵⁹ It displeased him that "Foreigners

[Were] Now 'Demanding' Aid"¹⁶⁰ when the U.S. should be curtailing foreign assistance for its own benefit.¹⁶¹

Davis would deal with Cuba and also get Khrushchev's attention about allied commitment to Berlin. He would apply the Monroe Doctrine to the island. American daily newspapers reporting intelligence from U-2 flights showed Cuban missile bases under construction, very likely by the Soviets, a situation that called "for action on our part."¹⁶²

In August 1961 German communists sealed off East Berlin from West Germany. Davis foresaw that closure could lead to a more serious incident. Fleeing East Berliners proved the "most vivid example of the success of the free way of life and the failure of the Communist way." Davis hoped the Soviets, Chinese and other communists would modify their philosophy.¹⁶³ With the Soviets and the American military in Europe, East-West tensions remained even after the Soviet deadline for Western withdrawal passed peacefully.¹⁶⁴ As late as August 1962 Davis questioned whether Russia was internally strong enough to risk a major war.¹⁶⁵

Meanwhile, both the East and West continued atomic testing. Russia did atmospheric tests whereas the U.S. was testing underground, minimizing radiation fallout. Mr. Davis longed for the two powers to end testing¹⁶⁶ but noted the Soviets were amazingly casual about fallout.¹⁶⁷

All was not well in the communist camp in the fall of 1961. Davis considered Sino-Soviet differences at the Communist Party Congress "a rather sizeable rift," but one worth watching.¹⁶⁸ Russia itself was going through a notable time of de-Stalinization, something "mystifying to the rest of the world."¹⁶⁹ The editor profoundly hoped Khrushchev's "peaceful coexistence" approach would result in fewer world tensions.¹⁷⁰

Eventually Cuba produced the most serious Soviet-American crisis. U.S. alarms about the island peaked in the fall of 1962, when Davis did not

see the U.S. in the best bargaining circumstances.¹⁷¹ Unsure about the best approach, Davis believed delay was probably more dangerous than a resolution attempt.¹⁷² He definitely wanted on-site inspection to prevent the Russians' hiding missiles underground. In addition, the whole hemisphere could breathe easier if Castro were ousted.¹⁷³ By early December 1962, Davis' headline queried "How Far Can We Trust Russia?"¹⁷⁴ His concerns continued into mid-1963 when American racial unrest threatened to distract the nation from monitoring Cuba.¹⁷⁵

In August 1963 the proposed Soviet-American nuclear test ban encouraged Davis greatly. He applauded it as a step toward reducing east-west tensions. He did not include the traditional U.S. demand for on-site inspection, but he felt possible violations could be detected scientifically. Perhaps this proposed test ban was a move toward a better or larger agreement "worthy of careful consideration."¹⁷⁶

Just before Thanksgiving 1963 Davis addressed "Too Many Foreign Entanglements." Specifically he directed his attention to Vietnam. Supposedly the U.S. had aided the South Vietnamese only through providing materials and military advisors. Yet, those measures had "already cost us the lives of scores of American military men." Such entanglements were contrary to President George Washington's warning against foreign alignments. The Trenton editor thought the U.S. should let remote nations live in their own ways. After all, Washington, D.C., was inept at manipulating situations and peoples.¹⁷⁷

Understandably Davis devoted column space to problems in Tennessee. For instance, he noted tourism had increased greatly because of advertising in leading national publications.¹⁷⁸ He saw less need for the state's Department of Welfare to check on U.S. government commodity

distribution in the western Tennessee counties of Haywood and Fayette. Naturally he hoped only the truly needy received relief.¹⁷⁹

In 1962 Davis called attention to the fact that funding of education in Tennessee's per capita spending for education ranked forty-ninth in the United States while the state ranked forty-fifth in per capita income. He expected the ranking of Tennessee education would rise when an overlooked four million dollars was factored into the equation. He did not, however, believe the amount spent for education assured better quality instruction. More important was whether citizens received "value received for what we spend." In reality, his headline concluded that "Education Is Not a Spending Contest."¹⁸⁰

In 1962 reapportionment of the state assembly became a major debate. By U.S. Supreme Court order Tennessee had to reapportion according to its population, something it supposedly already did regularly. However, rural legislators had blocked the procedure since 1901 to prevent losing their power to populous counties. State Senator Jerry Flippin of Milan proposed a constitutional amendment modeled on apportionment of the U.S. Congress. The lower branch would be reapportioned by population while the upper house's reapportionment would be based on "a given geographical area, such as the county or a group of counties." Davis wanted rural areas to approve the proposal lest federal courts decide "the make-up of our legislature."¹⁸¹ In November he applauded voters for endorsing a constitutional model that promised to create "the fair way of handling an unsatisfactory condition."¹⁸²

Early in 1963 Davis evaluated unfavorably Governor Frank Clement's administration. The new chief wanted more taxes to avoid "a static administration." In contrast Davis had been quite happy with former Governor Buford Ellington, who ran a "very successful administration

without increasing the tax rates" as he had promised in his campaign for the office. However, if the current incumbent proved more frugal than Ellington, he would not do so through deficit spending.¹⁸³

Nor could Davis support the 1963 move for increased truck weights. Truckers wanted to raise the limits to make them competitive with other states. He predicted trucking interests would get what they wanted because the last two governors had received campaign funds from them. He believed semi-trailer trucks were too long to turn and unload at a dock without blocking a lane. Davis did not expect legislators would be likely to evaluate such obvious problems.¹⁸⁴

Davis observed there would be no action in Washington or Nashville until chief executives acted. Basically two months of "piddling" passed before both federal and state administrators sent their agendas to legislators. To Davis these executives were quasi-dictators ruling over legislative puppets, a situation not good for representative government or the general welfare. Frustrated about diminished liberties and increased deficits, Davis asked "When will a turn-about come?"¹⁸⁵ He longed for the long-gone days when taxation and spending had been reasonable and responsible. Davis was thankful that "Clement's puppet legislature" would recess shortly: "Military rule may follow," he predicted, "if government does not work properly soon."¹⁸⁶

In the summer of 1963 Tennessee lost one of its most colorful senators. The death of Senator Estes Kefauver shocked most Tennesseans. Davis labeled him "a familiar character, out of proportion to the recognition given to the average United States Senator." Interestingly, the colorful U.S. Senator had crusaded nationally as though he were involved in only a county race. Possibly if Illinois Governor Adlai Stevenson had been as good a campaigner as the Tennessee solon, the Democratic

presidential team would have been elected. Boss Ed Crump of Memphis had unwittingly given Kefauver a campaign device in their earlier race by characterizing him as a "pet coon." Thereafter, the Senator wore a coonskin cap to show his independence. Kefauver won "and whatever statewide influence Mr. Crump had wielded ended therewith," Davis claimed.¹⁸⁷

During the Kennedy years Trenton, Tennessee editor-publisher Davis revealed a general conservatism, politically, economically, and socially. As he had in previous years, Mr. Davis proved himself a notable booster of local efforts to build up the economy and community while continuing his keen interest in state, national, and international events.

115 6/8/61/1. He acknowledged that the project took many hours and much work. 7/6/61/1.

116 1/18/62/1. Otherwise, he would have had to pay \$279 a month for his personal electricity. 1/18/62/1.

117 4/4/63/4. Equally exasperating was violation of the "No Parking at Any Time" area. 4/4/63/4.

118 4/18/63/1.

119 1/19/61/4.

120 1/19/61/4.

121 3/30/61/4. Former Mississippian Davis reacted negatively to a Jackson, Mississippi Methodist pastor's advocacy of the integration of all public facilities, a surprising statement from the state's capital. Naturally while the minister and his congregation could hold their own opinions, Davis observed such politically liberal beliefs were becoming more common among clergy and church colleges, based as he felt, on racial theories rather than experience. Such individuals who had never attended a black congregation or supplied a black restroom should be more realistic, he decided. 1/10/63/4.

122 5/25/61/6.

123 5/25/61/6. By September 1961 Davis' headline concluded that "Integration [was] Hurting Passenger Business" evidenced by fewer buses running through West Tennessee than in other years. 9/28/61/6.

124 6/1/61/6. Two years later Davis claimed black leaders operated "After the Communist Pattern" though they vigorously denied any affiliation. 7/25/63/4.

125 6/8/62/4.

126 6/29/61/6. A Dallas judge had characterized the integration as forced because Dallas residents had not approved of desegregation. 6/29/61/6.

127 1/4/62/4. Together those branches acting without Congressional authorization would "constitute a dangerous assumption of power and an invasion of the legislative field." 1/4/62/4. U.S. Attorney General Robert Kennedy's position on integration drew Davis' ire. Regardless of what "Bobby" said, Davis did not believe the U.S. government should issue both administrative and executive orders. The editor characterized Harvard as turning out indoctrinated communists and fascists who had no regard for constitutions or statutory laws. Otherwise, they would not uphold desegregation. In Davis' opinion desegregation had only token support unless a person believed in executive order as "Bobby" did. 5/3/63, 4. Another West Tennessee newspaper applauded Davis' editorial stance. 5/31/62/1.

128 9/20/62/4. State officers were attempting to uphold statutory laws, manners, and customs against destructive outside interests. Wealthy groups had paid non-native James Meredith well and thoroughly instructed him, the editor claimed. The editor applauded Governor Ross Barnett for staunchly standing against such outsiders. 9/20/62/4. In Davis' eyes the U.S. military would use its might as it had at Little Rock irrespective of the Fourteenth Amendment's legal applicability and the Tenth Amendment's appropriateness. 9/20/62/4. Davis clearly saw a violation of checks and balances in the U.S. system. 10/4/62/6. When Meredith criticized the duties of black soldiers at Ole Miss, thoroughly chafed, Davis exclaimed, "How can you educate a sap like that?" 10/11/62/1. Davis was upset by Meredith's "gall" and, notably, the tax money expended to integrate Ole Miss forcibly. 10/11/62/1. Davis saw James Meredith and many other blacks as hirelings for someone else, perhaps an organization. At one point he had left Ole Miss vowing not to return unless major changes were made concerning black students. Since the editor knew of no racial alterations the University had made, he assumed Meredith was pressured by

integrationists, primarily the NAACP, to return to Oxford, Mississippi. Davis thought it likely President Kennedy and the U.S. Attorney General had exerted pressure lest they lose face over the situation at Ole Miss. Davis believed many demonstrators were more nearly employees paid to agitate than they were profound believers in a racial cause. Davis could not fathom why the U.S. government let itself get involved in such matters when the agitators were suing the government only to further their cause. 2/14/63/4. Somehow Meredith could afford a Cadillac at Ole Miss and purchase a Thunderbird for his wife, whom he saw only about once a week. She was enrolled at Jackson State. Their supporters were definitely giving this couple their best. 3/7/63/6.

129 10/11/62/4. Davis' editorial comments resulted in part because U.S. Congressman Robert A. "Fats" Everett from nearby Union City had introduced some of Davis' comments about Tennessee's care for the elderly into the *Congressional Record*. 10/11/62/4.

130 3/7/63/6.

131 4/25/63/4.

132 5/9/63/4.

133 While misguided white outsiders and blacks besieged Southerners, the President's daughter Caroline was schooled privately in the White House with a select groups of friends who lived nearby. 5/9/63/4.

134 6/13/63/6. Meantime some Southern black leaders were distancing themselves from the agitators. 6/13/63/6. Davis was not happy with the "Poor People's March on Washington" in mid-1963 for "intimidating the highest law-making body in the country." Despite President Kennedy's saying it was in the best U.S. tradition of expression, Davis distinguished between the right of assembly and such a massive racial demonstration. Leaders might pledge non-violence, but they could not guarantee such conduct. 7/18/63/4.

135 9/19/63/4. Definitely it was a most sad occasion. Davis reminded readers of his earlier editorials predicting "that previous actions of Negro groups, led by self-appointed leaders of low caliber, would lead to violence." 9/19/63/4. Contrary to republican principles, blacks, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the "New Frontier" accused the white majority of being "willful violators of law and order." 9/19/63/4. Davis believed that the U.S. executive and judicial departments were acting contrary to democracy. They were requiring citizens to comply with their decisions in matters in which the legislative branch had not acted. Specifically he mentioned defendants in desegregation cases were penalized

if they did not arrive in court with a voluntary integration plan. Davis claimed such had happened in his own West Tennessee district, an irregularity the judge openly affirmed had occurred in his court. Judges were basing their decisions on their own opinions rather than the merits of the case. Davis claimed that Americans were "fast losing our government of the people" and could easily be overcome by dictators. 10/31/63/6.

136 9/19/63/4.

137 12/5/63/4.

138 4/13/61/4.

139 7/20/61/4.

140 10/12/61/4.

141 11/23/61/4.

142 10/18/62/4. Davis' example was a proposed postal increase that would yield only approximately six hundred million dollars while postal pay would increase over one billion dollars. Davis cited a routine of the minstrel-cowboy "Lasses" White: Having difficulty in one scene in understanding mathematics, allegedly the comedian found through an algebraic equation that he was nine dollars better off than he had been when he owed only eleven dollars. In contrast to "Lasses," whose finances seemed to improve, the U.S. government was nine billion dollars more in debt than it had been the previous year. 10/18/62/4.

143 1/18/62/4.

144 2/1/62/4. A Trenton citizen observed that taxpayers were seemingly competent to make money but only officials knew how to spend properly. 2/14/63/1. Davis called attention to "Ike's" criticism of JFK's excessive fiscal policies. Davis agreed but thought it inappropriate for the recent president to make the comment. He harkened back to his editorial of many years before that the national debt would be half its present size if "Ike" had spent at a peacetime level comparable to Truman's. 6/6/63/1. He continued to see the "Nation's Finances Worsening." 9/12/63/4.

145 Less than a year later, Davis questioned an excessive federal increase in unemployment benefits. 1/31/63/4.

146 5/24/62/6. Davis quoted a commentator "that the trouble with the national economy is that there isn't any." 1/17/63/1.

147 2/21/63/4.

148 3/21/63/4.

149 8/8/63/4 and 5/4/61/6.

150 "Anyway, we are in it, and what this writer thinks has little to do with it." 5/4/61/6.
Nor could China afford such "High Priced Sky-riding." 8/10/61/4. Davis still held that
unwise spending marked both the Soviet and American space programs. 8/16/62/4.

151 7/25/63/4.

152 8/29/63/4.

153 11/28/63/1.

154 11/28/63/4. He believed appropriate memorials were in order but questioned
whether passing "doubtful legislation" still pending was proper. 12/5/63/4.

155 1/5/61/4.

156 1/26/61/4. Such an example as Davis' headline "Russia Throwing Up [a] Smoke
Screen" referred to Russia's mock indignation over the murder of Communist Patrice
Lumumba of the Congo. In Davis' mind, Lumumba died in a failed coup. 2/16/61/4. The
peace cause in Africa and beyond suffered a tragic loss when the highly influential United
Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold died in a plane crash. Russia advanced the
idea of a three-man committee to replace him, with one being a Russian with veto power.
Davis recognized the U.S. did not want such a change and had the votes to block the plan.
9/21/61/6.

157 4/27/61/4.

158 5/18/61/6.

159 5/18/61/6.

160 7/13/61/4.

161 7/13/61/4.

162 7/27/61/6.

163 8/17/61/6.

164 10/5/61/1 and 10/26/61/4. When East Berlin emigration ended and China closed all
entry to or egress from Hong Kong, Davis editorialized, "Flights from 'Paradise' Halted."
12/14/61/4.

165 8/23/62/4.

166 9/7/61/4.

167 9/14/61/1 and 10/19/61/4.

168 10/26/61/4.

170 4/26/62, 6.

171 Davis did not think the U.S. could prevail under United Nations principles. At the same time he realized risks existed if the U.S. invoked the Monroe Doctrine for Russia could then demand the U.S. leave Berlin to exclusive communist control. 9/13/62/4.

172 9/13/62/4.

173 11/8/62/4.

174 12/6/62/4. At Christmas time 1962 Davis was unsure of the full meaning and appropriateness of the U.S.' trading with Cuba a large amount of medicine in return for approximately 1,100 prisoners captured in the 1961 Bay of Pigs fiasco. 12/27/62/4. As late as May 1963, the U.S. was reluctant to be more aggressive against Cuba lest such an approach should "risk a general and nuclear war." 5/2/63/4.

175 7/11/63/4.

176 8/1/63/4. Russia possibly wanted some protection from China, in the light of Sino-Soviet tensions. 8/1/63/4. Three months later Davis repeated the need for constant American vigilance against possible Soviet subversion or diversionary moves. 11/7/63/4.

177 11/14/63/6.

178 2/9/61/4.

179 7/20/61/4.

180 3/15/62/6. The state's education funding had been achieved through a two-cent sales tax followed by a three-cent levy.

181 3/29/62/4. Davis wondered whether the U.S. courts might disapprove the amendment process because of its taking several years to pass. Davis believed minor political parties were disfranchised after an election since the majority party decided who would be president or vice-president. 5/17/62/6.

182 11/1/62/6 and 11/8/62/1.

183 1/24/63/4.

184 2/28/63/4.

185 3/14/63/6.

186 3/21/63/4.

187 8/15/63/4. Kefauver's interim successor was Herbert S. Walters of Morristown, who had little political experience though he had supported political favorites of Governor Clement and the late Senator Kenneth D. McKellar. 8/22/63/4.